

Finance and the Quest for Personal Change, p. 4

FREE



Is it for Stewardship? - p. 6

Friday
December 31, 2021
Vol. 8, No. 17
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Jessie Singleterry

"If you want peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies." – Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Happy New Year!

ADPH Urges COVID Precautions

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) continues to urge all eligible Alabamians to be vaccinated for COVID-19, preferably with the mRNA Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, follow mitigation measures, stay home if they are sick, and get tested if they are ill or have a known exposure to COVID-19.

Modern vaccines, follow mitigation measures, stay home if they are sick, and get tested if they are ill or have a known exposure to COVID-19.

World Mourns Death of Archbishop

Admirers around the globe are mourning the December 26 death of 90-year-old Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The South African theologian was known for his work as an anti-apartheid

and human rights activist. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1984.



Promising Black Business to Open

In Spring 2022, Huntsville will become the site for The Peach Cobbler Factory, the only such now 10-state business in Alabama. The black-founded franchise features 12 flavors of cobblers, along with several flavors of cinnamon rolls and banana pudding.



Joe Davis Stadium Renovations Set

The City of Huntsville approved a \$27.7 million contract with Lee Builders to renovate Joe Davis Stadium.

The 14-month remodel will deliver a modern sports facility to accommodate high school football, lacrosse, soccer, and city sports clinics and special

events. Seating capacity will be reduced from 10,000 to 6,600 to allow for open terraces and better visibility for patrons.

Construction is expected to begin in early 2022, and the project will be complete in time for spring play in 2023.

Calhoun, Lockheed Martin Partner to Meet Aerospace Needs

Calhoun Community College and Lockheed Martin will partner to

provide training to future pre-apprentice aerospace electrical assembly techni-

cians.

"The gap between open pre-apprentice aerospace jobs and trained technicians has become a growing trend in this industry," commented Houston Blackwood, Calhoun's Director of Workforce Solutions. "My job at Calhoun is to help industry partners to close that gap by providing them with training solutions to their internal problems, and creating opportunities to train individuals to enter the workforce and fill those positions," added Black-

wood.

Calhoun's non-credit division, Workforce Solutions, met with representatives from Lockheed Martin to further discuss this problem and provided a cost-effective solution with a pre-apprentice training program. The two-month hands-on training program provides individuals with the following training: 1) Introduction to Blueprints and Schematic Drawings; 2) Basic math; 3) Wire harness assembly; 4) Electrical fundamentals; and 5) Torque.

2022 Black History Month Theme

This year's theme for Black History Month-- "Black Health and Wellness"--takes a look at how American healthcare has often underserved the African-American community.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has recently shown, a widespread disparity of access to quality healthcare negatively impacts outcomes

for blacks and other minorities.

For African-Americans, the root of the problem goes deep, and back centuries.

Beginning with slavery a lack of economic opportunity, often put medical care out of reach for many African-Americans.

Even in good economic

BHM, Continued on Page 8

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Washington in One Minute



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Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least TWO weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to info@valleyweeklyllc.com. Items do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC.

Submissions to TVW do not necessarily reflect the belief of the editorial staff and TVW is not responsible for the authenticity of submissions.

The Valley Weekly
Ad Rates Single Issue

Back Cover	10x10-inches	\$1,000
Full Page	10x10 inches	\$800
3/4 Page	7.5x10 inches	\$600
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Here are the happenings in Washington, D.C., this week:

1. **ON THE FLOOR.** The House and Senate are out of session and will reconvene the 2nd Session of the 117th Congress on Jan. 3 (Senate) and Jan. 10 (House) ... On Dec. 21, Senate Democrats held a virtual caucus to discuss the future of the Build Back Better Act, which - according to Punchbowl News - Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) promised that morning in a letter to all Democratic Senators to bring up despite Sen. Joe Manchin's (D-WV) bombshell announcement on Sunday that he would vote against it.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.** On Monday morning, President Biden participated in a call with governors regarding the nation's response to the Omicron variant and then will depart the White House for his vacation home in Rehoboth Beach, DE. Last Wednesday, the President extended the pandemic moratorium on federal student loan payments (including interest) through May 1, 2022, for 41 million

student loan borrowers - the old deadline to restart payments had been Feb. 1.

3. **FDA GREENLIGHTS NEW ANTI-COVID PILLS.** Last week, the Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization for 2 new oral medicines to fight COVID-19: (1) Pfizer's Paxlovid which will reduce hospitalizations and death by 88% when given within 5 days to persons 12 years of age and older and (2) Merck's Molnupiravir which is effective at 30% for persons 18 and older. The Biden Administration has put in an order for 10 million 5-day treatment courses of Paxlovid and had pledged to distribute 250,000 treatment courses in January.

4. **EMPLOYER VACCINE MANDATE.** Last week, the Supreme Court announced it will hold oral arguments on Jan. 7 to consider challenges to (1) the Biden Administration's covid-19 vaccine mandate for employers with 100 or more employees and (2) the vaccine mandate for healthcare workers at facilities that receive federal funding. The Court

delayed action on emergency requests in both cases that sought an immediate decision. The workplace mandate is currently in effect nationwide after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit reinstated the mandate 2 weeks ago, while the healthcare worker mandate is blocked in half of the states.

5. **FEDERAL RESERVE TO HIKE RATES.** On Dec. 15, the Federal Reserve's 12-member Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) announced that it would likely increase interest rates 3 times in 2022, up from a projected 1 increase in its September forecast, with a further 3 more increases in 2023 and two in 2024, which could raise the rate to 2.1% by the end of 2024.

6. **WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE SET FOR XMAS EVE LAUNCH.** On Friday (Dec. 24) at 7:20 a.m. EST, the James Webb Space Telescope was launched from the Guiana Space Center in Kourou, French Guiana, on the northeastern coast of South America, aboard an Ariane 5 rocket, headed for an orbit 1 million miles from Earth. The Webb launch is an international collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency, and the Canadian Space Agency and will have the ability to see galaxies formed more than 13.5 billion years ago. You can watch the launch live on the NASA website here: <https://www.nasa.gov/nasalive>.

7. **EDUCATION.** On Friday, the Department of Education provided updated statistics

on Friday for borrowers who have been approved for student loan forgiveness under a new expanded program announced by the administration in October. The Department of Education has identified 38,000 borrowers who will receive \$2.4 billion in loan forgiveness. The agency plans to provide additional forgiveness to assist more borrowers. The billions of dollars in student loan relief are being provided to borrowers under the limited Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) waiver, which is a temporary expansion of the public service loan forgiveness program created by Congress in 2007. Because

of complex rules and years of poor oversight, PSLF has long suffered from high denial rates and broad criticism. However, the new waiver program first announced by the education department on October 6th relaxes key PSLF program requirements by temporarily allowing more categories of the federal student loans and repayment plans to qualify.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Ron Hamm

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This Sunday's Lectionary

(Track 2)



Sunday, January 2, 2022

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
Psalm 84

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

Funeral service for MR. WILLIE ROBINSON (b. 1951); MR. MELVIN AYERS (b. 1976); and MR. CALVIN TROY JACOBS, SR., will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for MRS. SHEILA BERNITA PARKS YOUNG (b. 1960) was held Tuesday, December 28, at the Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association Tabernacle with Pastor Mario Ford officiating.

Graveside service for MR. ALBERT LEE DOZIER ("BOY RED") (b. 1949) was held Sunday, December 19, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue - Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

Funeral service for MR. ESSOM FOREMAN, JR., (b. 1929) was held Monday, December 27, at the Blue Spring Road Church of Christ (2150 Blue Spring Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Brother Walter Hartley officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. FANNIE LEE "MUTT" MATTHEWS (b. 1922) was held Sunday, December 26, at the Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church (13376 Dupree Worthey Road, Harvest, Ala.) with Pastor John A. Moore officiating.

Funeral service for MR. WILLIAM CALVIN RICE (b. 1962) was held Friday, December 24, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Pastor Ricky Moreland officiating.

Funeral service for MR. RICKY VINCENCE MORGAN (b. 1960) was held Thursday, December 23, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Minister Joe Stanford officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-9693

Funeral service for MS. NICOLE MARIA WINSTON (b. 1982) was held Friday, December 17, at Serenity Funeral Home, 2505 University Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

January 1

New Year's Day

Dr. Daniel K. Wims Becomes Alabama A&M University's 12th President

January 2

Final 'Rocket City Christmas Light Show-Through' Toyota Field Huntsville, Ala. - 5 p.m.

January 4

Faculty-Staff Conference (Virtual) Alabama A&M University

January 6

Comedian Josh Pray TikTok, YouTube Stand Up Live Huntsville, Ala. 7 p.m.

January 14

Huntsville's 5th MLK "Chicago Steppin'" Weekend Omega Center 181 Import Circle Huntsville, Ala.

January 15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday

January 18

Boat Show Huntsville 2022 Von Braun Center 700 Monroe Street Huntsville, Ala.

January 21

Rocket Awards U.S. Space and Rocket Center 1 Tranquility Base Huntsville, Ala. - 5-8 p.m.

January 30

Harlem Globetrotters Von Braun Center Huntsville, Ala.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

FEAR LESS AND LOVE MORE

2 Timothy 1:7 says, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind"

You know, fear is a big problem for so many people and the bible has much to say about this subject. It tells us 52 times "do not fear"; 48 times it says "don't be afraid"; and "fear not" is one of the most used phrases in the bible.

So, there is no doubt that fear is real and it seems to be more preva-

lent this time of the year.

But, you know, I believe that there is a secret to not having fear, and it can be found in 1 John 4:18, where it says, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear because fear involves punishment."

So, if this is the case, the answer to fear is not courage. The answer to fear is perfect love. Now,

the word *perfect* means completely free from faults or defects. This



PRESTON BROWN

A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE



is the kind of love that Jesus has for all of us. So, let us all work on loving one another the way that God commands us to do and appreciate the love that Jesus has for us. And, remember:

when we fear less, we will love more.

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my book "A Champion Game Plan For Life" from Amazon.com.



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Financial Wellness Key in Midst of Personal Change



(BPT) - As we continue to navigate the economic impact of the pandemic, a Prudential Financial survey* finds more than half of Americans have made a significant change in their lives in the past 18 months, and three-quarters are considering life changes in the future; changes that include switching jobs, taking time off from work and retirement.

According to Brad Hearn, Prudential's president of Retail Advice and Solutions, for those considering making a major financial change, now isn't necessarily the time to throw caution to the wind. "For many, the impact of the pandemic has been life changing, from income disruption, job loss and even reduced or eliminated employer contributions to insurance and retirement plans. Any financial decision needs to be carefully planned before executing," said Hearn.

To help get your financial status ready to support a significant change in your life, Hearn offers these tips:

* Conduct a financial wellness assessment: Take advantage of free tools like this financial wellness assessment to help you create a plan to reach your financial goals.

From retirement planning to household budgeting, you can see where your finances currently stand and how to plan ahead for the future.

* Set clear goals and make a plan: What do you plan to achieve with your money in the next few years and in the long run? Maybe it's to plan for a secure retirement, maybe it's to manage debt or it's about upping your investing game. Set a detailed plan toward the goals. You can also tap a financial advisor for guidance and help.

* Focus on building up your savings: Charting a new path doesn't mean you should stop building savings. Quite the opposite. It can be even more important to establish a routine to fuel a savings account as you begin a new chapter in your

life. Doing so will provide flexibility, relief and, in some cases, security should there be any unexpected twists and turns.

These simple steps can help you establish a more secure foundation, whether or not you're one of the many Americans embarking on a new path in 2022.

*The survey was conducted on YouGov Direct: 1,200 U.S. adults 18+ were surveyed on Nov. 16, 2021, from 2:49 p.m.-4:45 p.m. Eastern time. Data is weighted on age, gender, education level, political affiliation and ethnicity to be nationally representative of adults 18+ in the United States. The margin of error is approximately 2.8% for the overall sample.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY ALL FOR THE FAMILY

The start of 2022 is upon us. Many will be making resolutions. According to researchers, an estimated 45 percent of Americans make New Year's Resolutions, while a mere eight percent actually succeed in accomplishing their goals. Following are the ten most common resolutions:

1. exercise more
2. Lose weight
3. Get organized
4. Learn a new hobby
5. Live each day to the fullest
6. Save more money and spend less
7. Break an addiction
8. Spend more time with family and friends
9. Get unplugged. Don't check emails, get on Facebook, watch tv. nor use any electronics for at least one day.

10. Eat more healthy meals. Other resolutions cited in the literature are:

- * Find a way to volunteer to help someone or an organization
- * Complain less and praise more
- * Read the Bible at least 20 minutes a day
- * Join a Bible study class
- * Attend church more regularly
- * Forgive past grudges
- * Refuse to gossip
- * Be content with what you have

After examining the nine virtues of the Fruit of the Spirit in Bible study this year, suggest that everyone should make a con-

"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

-Will Rogers



Dr. Margaret J. Kelly

scious effort to radiate the following when interacting with others: Love, joy, peace, goodness, kindness, patience, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control.

~Think It Over~

Each of us can improve some area of our lives. Each day, we are blessed with opportunities to achieve many of our goals. Incorporating some of the resolutions delineated above, can help make 2022 a better year for yourself and others.

Sources: 1) bluehost.com; 2) healthnwell.com/health-care/information; and 3) verywellfamily.com

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Try this:

Happy New Day's (not "New Year's") Resolutions for 2022! (Part 1 of 2)

Most of us will likely make a New Year's resolution that we won't keep. Perhaps it's because we look too far ahead; instead, we should be looking for a more immediate goal such as today.

Even as we ascribe a Biblical connotation to our "Happy New Year" resolve, it is not the year that we should be resolved to improve. In fact, we should work to improve the day right in front of us.

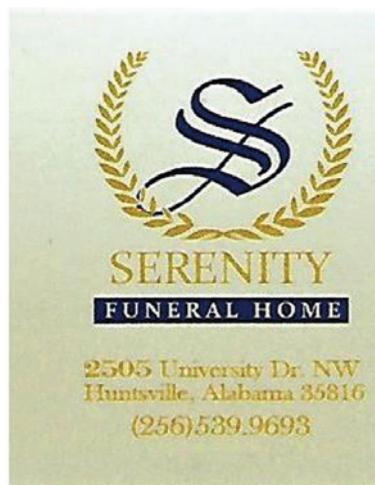
That's the type of guidance Jesus offered to his disciples when they asked him, "Lord, teach us to pray." He answered them with what we now call the Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13.

Verse 11's seven words, "Give us THIS DAY our DAILY bread" (emphases added), can serve as our cure-all from making then breaking New Year's resolutions. This prayer was to get them (now us) to focus primarily on the immediate - the ignorance of which starts most of our failings.

The greatest gift we have is today - which is why it's called "the present." Or, stated another way in Psalm 118:24, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Therefore, let's all begin 2022 with a new resolution but NOT for the year ending December 31, 2022, but with a New Day's Resolution - even perhaps starting on today!

Retired German and folklore professor Wolfgang Mieder once said, "life is hard by the yard, but a cinch by the inch!" - tim allston



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*"Not everything that counts
can be counted and not
everything that can be
counted counts."*

- Albert Einstein

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."

- Desmond Tutu

COVID-19 Assistance

UNITED WAY COVID-19 Assistance Fund

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www.uwmadison-county.org

Get Assistance: Call 211

SMALL BUSINESSES

disastercustomerservice@sba.gov

sba.gov

(800) 659-2955

COVID-19-RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT

Alabama Department of Labor

(866) 234-5382

labor.alabama.gov

MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(256) 539-3711

LATEST COVID-19 INFORMATION

Alabama Department of Public Health

www.alabamapublichealth.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
cdc.gov

TAKEOUT/ DELIVERY RESTAURANTS

<https://hsvchamber.org/restaurant-deliveries-take-out-food-service-providers/>

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CALLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

Stewardship or Sewership?

Philippians 3:8



It is amazing how the providence of God works in the life of the believer. Case in point is just recently (and this has happened before), as I was journaling, I mistakenly spelled the word *stewardship*, and left out the “t.” As I was correcting it, the Holy Spirit immediately pointed out to me that the misspelled word became *sewarship*, while at the

same time reminding me of what the Apostle Paul said in Philippians 3 about his “pre-Christ” life. He spoke about all the things that he had valued before, such as pride in his ethnicity, education, and the error of thinking that he had earned right standing with God by his “blameless law keeping.” What Paul came to understand, however, was that getting to know Christ better was far more important than those things he listed. He labeled them as “dung” (KJV). One translation stated it this way; “To truly know him meant letting go of everything from my past and throwing all my *boasting* (my emphasis) on the garbage heap. It’s



Image by greg reese-pixabay.com

all like a pile of *manure* to me now, so that I may be enriched in the reality of knowing Jesus Christ and embrace him as Lord in

all of his greatness.” The challenge from the Spirit to me was for me to evaluate the “stewardship” of the gifts that He has given me.

Are they being used for the Kingdom or for self-aggrandizement? For? That’s good stewardship.” If not, “sewership.”



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*“Never let school interfere
with your education.”*

– Mark Twain

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168974

DECEMBER 31 - DONNA SUMMER - LaDonna Adrian Gaines was an American singer, songwriter and actress. She gained prominence during the disco era of the late 1970s. A five-time Grammy Award winner, Summer was the first artist to have three consecutive double albums reach number one.
- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com





Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

Mrs. Jessie Singleterry



A long-time resident of Huntsville, Alabama, Jessie Singleterry was married to the late Leonard Singleterry. As the wife of a military officer, she traveled extensively with her husband throughout the United States and to foreign countries.

During her residency in the various states, Singleterry utilized her time by serving as a volunteer at the hospital in Hawaii. As a hospital volunteer, she read books to children and prepared gift baskets.

She volunteered for the American Red Cross, where she worked to prepare and serve refreshments to blood donors; registered blood donors at blood drives and greeted donors. As a member of the Retired Regulars Association, Singleterry served as the chairperson of the Amenity/Courtesy Committee, where she spearheaded and provided needed items

to the less fortunate families. Under her leadership, the committee assisted over 100 families with various needs.

At Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, she served as the chairperson of the Decorations Ministry. Each Sunday, she ensured that there were fresh flower arrangements around

the pulpit and other appropriate areas. Also, she was a member of the Women's Choir and a mother in the church.

In her neighborhood, Singleterry volunteered her time and talent assisting neighbors with decorating needs, as well as providing meals for neighbors who were ill.

"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote **volunteerism** and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at www.rosettajamesfoundation.org. Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to info@valley-weeklyllc.com.

"Honoring Our Elders"
Rosetta James Foundation

PowerShot

"It's your road,
and yours alone, others
may walk it with you,
but no one can walk it
for you."

Rumi

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*"Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add,
but when there is nothing left to take away."*

- Antoine De Saint-Exupery

Church College Scholarships Available

FAITH Initiative, Incorporated, a 501c3 nonprofit established by Fellowship Presbyterian Church USA, announces the annual scholarships to be awarded Spring 2022.

The scholarships are open to deserving students from the Tennessee Valley who have been accepted to an accredited university or technical school and who demonstrate the potential to become a productive member of the community.

Recipients are not required to be enrolled or accepted in an institution of higher learning in Alabama to receive the scholarships.

Applications and requirements have been mailed to area high school counselors and local churches. However, your

assistance is requested in getting this announcement to high school seniors. Students selected from

Scholarship applications may be obtained from the FAITH Initiative organization at faithinitiativenon-

profit@gmail.com; website for Fellowship Presbyterian Church at fpchuntsville.org; or call 256-714-9399. Applications must be received not later than March 8, 2022.

The Henderson and Anthony Family Scholarship for Choral Performance is established to provide a scholarship of \$500 per semester (\$1,000 per year) to two sophomore, junior, or senior singers (per semester) enrolled in a college or university music program or singing in the choir. (This comprises two \$1,000 scholarships.)

The scholarship pays the students to sing in the Fellowship Presbyterian Church's major choir as a soprano, alto, tenor, or bass.

Interested college students may contact FAITH Initiative organization at faithinitiativenonprofit@gmail.com; or call (256) 714-9399 for more information.



the Tennessee Valley will be informed by letter, and the formal announcement will be made at the Annual Event of the organization scheduled for Spring 2022.

Successful applicants are expected to participate.

profit@gmail.com; website for Fellowship Presbyterian Church at fpchuntsville.org; or call 256-714-9399. Applications must be received not later than March 8, 2022.

The Henderson and An-

2022 Black History Month Theme

BHM. Continued from Page 1
times, during the Jim Crow era "Whites Only" hospitals were commonplace throughout the South. Black medical facilities were often underfunded, or non-existent. This stark reality gave credence to the saying: "When white folks catch a cold, black folks get pneumonia."

Black folk remedies helped pick up the slack involving rituals and incantations, harking back to its African roots. Many plant-based medicine were also part of the cure. These included garlic for high blood pressure, and aloe vera for skin injuries which have since been validated in scientific studies.

It was only well into the 20th century when Black America was given a better

shot at institutional health care. That's when the U.S. government threatened to withhold Medicare payments to "Whites Only" medical institutions and -- almost overnight -- hospitals were desegregated. The year was 1964, with the passage of the Civil Rights Act.

More than 40 years later, the Affordable Care Act was eventually passed by the Obama administration that gave better access to medical care for Americans of all colors.

Today, the US continues to lag behind the rest of the world in providing affordable medical care for a majority of its citizens. As a result, African-Americans, other minorities and especially the poor continue to remain the country's most vulnerable.

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